

印外长再批尼赫鲁：他那时讲“印度第二，中国第一”-观察者网

**Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar Criticises Nehru’s China Policy Again:
“Nehru Said, ‘India second, China first’”**

Translated by Hemant Adlakha

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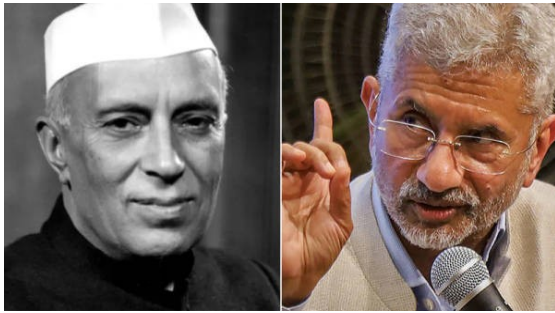
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Note by Translator

This report (dated 3 April 2024) attracted over 160,000 viewers clicks within hours of its publication – an unusually high number for a news report about India-China relations in the columns of *Observer Network* (*guanacha.cn*) – a popular digital news/current affairs platform in Chinese.



Nehru and Jaishankar

Translation

(Observer Network) According to a report by the *Hindustan Times* on 3 April, the Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar once again pointed the finger at India's founding Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru while speaking at an event on 2 April, and questioned Nehru's China policy, his statement of "India second, China first", and giving priority to China rather than India's position.

Jaishankar was speaking at the Ahmedabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Gujarat. When talking about Sino-Indian relations and the issue of the permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, he claimed that Nehru's "wrong policies" caused the territorial disputes India is currently facing. He also claimed that there was a time when Nehru made the statement "India second, China first."



Jaishankar speaking at an event organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

"In 1950, (then Home Minister) Sardar Patel warned the then Prime Minister Nehru about China. Patel told Nehru that the situation we are facing today is unprecedented. For the first time, India faced a two-front situation (Pakistan and China). Patel also told Nehru that he did not believe what the Chinese were saying as their intentions seemed different and we should take precautions."

Jaishankar went on to say, “Nehru’s position was completely different. He replied to Patel that your doubts about the Chinese are unnecessary. Nehru also said that it is impossible for anyone to attack us from the Himalayas. Nehru was completely dismissive (of the threat from China).”

Jaishankar insisted that “India's borders are India's borders” and “we should never doubt this.”

Jaishankar also mentioned that there was a debate that year on “whether India should obtain a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.”

“Nehru’s position at that time was that we deserved a seat, but first we had to ensure that China got a seat.” He said, “Currently we follow the policy of India first, but for a while, the Indian Prime Minister (Nehru) talked about China first.” Jaishankar believes that the international situation is now conducive to India’s bid for a permanent seat on the Security Council, and it should strengthen its efforts in this regard.

Nehru was India’s first prime minister after independence (1947-1964) and also India’s longest-serving prime minister. He

played an important role in India’s independence process. He was also one of the advocates of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Bandung Conference. However, in the 1960s, the Nehru government gradually deviated from the non-alignment policy, violated the provisions of the Sino-Indian Boundary Treaty, and unilaterally provoked Sino-Indian boundary disputes.

Jaishankar has made similar remarks many times this year. On 3 January, Jaishankar reviewed the history of the development of Sino-Indian relations at an event and criticised the China policy of the Nehru period for its “romanticism, idealism and non-realism” tendencies. Guided by realism, India should deal with China on the basis of “respect, sensitivity and interests,” Jaishankar emphasised.

Jaishankar also said on 20 March that Nehru’s foreign policy stance towards China was a “bubble” and questioned the concept of “China-India harmony.” “This is a bubble we created. In the early years, this was very much a Nehru-style ideological bubble. Nehru was against the United States, so everyone was against the United States. Nehru said China was a great friend, so everyone said that China is a great friend. Even today, there exists a

concept called ‘China and India’ (Chindia).”

It is worth noting that in recent years, India has continuously strengthened its interaction with the US and the Western bloc. Prime Minister Modi paid a high-profile visit to Washington in June last year, and the two sides declared that each other is “one of the closest partners in the world.”

Professor [Liu Zongyi, a researcher at the Shanghai Institute of International Studies](#), [told Observer.com](#) that India not only wants to maintain its so-called “strategic autonomy” image, but also wants all the benefits of being an ally with the United States. India has moved further towards the West – we cannot say that it has “completely moved over” to the West, but rather, it has moved closer towards the West. India’s strategic goals are very clear. It mainly wants to use the current strategic competition between China and the United States to enhance its own military strength and achieve its own economic take-off and rise as a great power. It does not want to be tied to the chariot of the United States to contain China. India does not want to get drawn into the United States’ battle, it does not want to “draw chestnuts from the fire” [a Chinese proverb – 火中取栗子,

Huǒzhōngqǔlì zǐ, meaning to do a dangerous, hard, or unpleasant thing for someone else – (Translation editor)], and it does not want to become cannon fodder in the strategic competition between China and the United States.”

A month ago, when responding to questions from Indian media reporters on the Sino-Indian border issue, Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: “Both China and India believe that resolving the border situation as soon as possible is in the common interest of both countries. It is hoped that the two sides will maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels in accordance with the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and the spirit of relevant agreements, and find a mutually acceptable solution to resolve border issues as soon as possible.”

Wang Wenbin further said that China has also emphasised many times that the boundary issue is not the whole of China-India relations and should be placed at an appropriate position in China-India relations and properly managed. It is hoped that India and China will meet each other halfway, grasp bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, insist on enhancing mutual trust, avoid

misunderstanding and mis-judgment; insist on dialogue and cooperation, avoid artificial obstacles; insist on properly handling differences, avoid creating disputes, and jointly promote the two countries; and that the relationship develops along a healthy and stable track.

From the *ICS Translations* Editor's Desk

For the benefit of the Indian readers of *ICS Translations*, we are re-producing below the translations of a few Chinese readers' comments to the report (within hours of the report, over 400 readers' comments have been reported – an unusually high number on an India-China relations report in the columns of *guanacha.com*):

- Comment from a reader from northeast China's Heilongjiang province – “You should thank Nehru, at least you were beaten 10 years later...”
- Comment from a reader from Jiangsu province – “Thank you Jaishankar for telling the truth. There is no such thing as China-India harmony. Don't have any

romantic illusions about China-India relations. It is impossible to form any independent community with India. No matter how you show your kindness, it will only arouse their dissatisfaction. “These should be ours!”

- Comment from a reader from Sichuan province – “A guy who doesn't know how to be generous. Without the foundation of independence and social governance laid by Nehru, the foreign minister still does not know whether he is grazing cattle for British farmers.”
- Comment from a reader from Shandong province – “India seems to be keen on promoting that China's seat as among 5 UN permanent members are ‘conceded’ to them. This kind of clown-like rhetoric that makes people laugh will not be of any use except to make their domestic idiots even more stupid. As long as China is here, there is no need for India to dream of becoming a “permanent member.”

- Comment from a reader from Sichuan province – “Jaishankar can be compared with Pompeo. In terms of image, the two of them are also like a fat pig and a skinny monkey. What they have in common is: we lie, we cheat, and we steal. These are their famous sayings.
Jaishankar is more shameless than Pompeo and has no lower limit. But in the face of China's strength, any conspiracy and conspiracy are in vain.”
- Comment from a reader from Liaoning province – “If Jaishankar understands this, then what kind of view of right and wrong do other Indian politicians in the Home Ministry have? If the elite is so limited, how will Indian civilians speculate about China? Those at the bottom are resistant to pressure, while those at the top are dreamers. Those who resist pressure are more populist than those who dream. The American questionnaire said that the United States is on the wrong path. I think we are also on the wrong path with India. We forgive mistakes and make mistakes again and again, going back and forth.”
- Comment from a reader from Zhejiang province – “My point of view is: I am very happy to see India acting so unruly. It's much better than being friendly on the surface and taking advantage of us secretly.”
- Comment from a reader from Sichuan province – “India hasn't changed at all in all these years!”
- Comment from a reader from Guangdong province – “In the face of strength, India can only rank behind China. 😏 Nehru tried it, could it be that Jaishankar wants to try again?”

Series Editor: **Hemant Adlakha**

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The article does not reflect opinion of the ICS or of the translator. The article is a simple translation of the original article published in guancha.com in Chinese on 3 April 2024.

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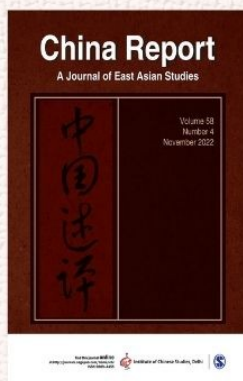


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